

Application No. 10/069,026
Amdt. dated November 19, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 20, 2004

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 1, line 31 and ending on Page 2, line 2 with the amended paragraph as set forth below. Applicant avers that no new matter has been added.

--The object of the present invention is to provide a method for manufacturing labels, which avoids the disadvantages of the method described, while maintaining the advantages thereof. To that end, a method according to the present invention is a method wherein a strip of film is supplied and at least a part of the side thereof is placed on a supporting carrier. A retaining element is then applied to and pressed against a second side remote from the carrier on the strip or film supported by the carrier. The film web is enclosed between the carrier and the retaining element and is cut loose to form a label and is taken hold of by the retaining element and picked up from the carrier characterized by the features according to claim 1.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 2, line 20 and ending on line 21 with the amended paragraph as set forth below:

--In a preferred embodiment, a method according to the present invention wherein a retaining element is used which has an outer contour substantially corresponding to that of the desired label and the label forming part is cut loose along the outer contour is characterized by the features according to claim 2.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 3, line 5 and ending on line 6 with the amended paragraph as set forth below:

--In further elaboration, a method according to the present invention wherein the label is transferred from the retaining element to an insertion device for placement of the label in a mold. The label is taken over by the insertion device in approximately in the same position is further characterized by the features according to claim 10.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 3, line 10 and ending on line 12 with the amended paragraph as set forth below:

--In an alternative embodiment of the same inventive concept, a method according to the invention provides for manufacturing a label for placement in a mold in particular an injection mold. A strip of film is supplied and is placed with at a part of a first side thereof on a supporting carrier. The strip of film overlays a blank opening wherein a retaining element adjacent the strip is brought into the blank opening so that the part overlaying the

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blank opening is cut out by a blanking punch in the direction of the retaining element is taken hold of and is picked up for transfer to a mold. The part that is cut from the blank opening can be referred to as a label ~~is characterized by the features according to claim 11.--~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 3, line 32 and ending on Page 4, line 5 with the amended paragraph as set forth below:

--The retaining means, in particular pickup means thereof, such as vacuum cups or the like, are preferably held against the film strip, in particular the or each label-forming part thereof, prior to the blanking of the label. It is then preferred that the label be is already engaged by the retaining means before being blanked. As a result, the label can be held taut and in that position be transferred to the mold. The retaining means are then preferably of slightly resilient design or slightly resiliently suspended, so that the blanking movement can be simply followed, insofar as necessary, without unacceptably high pressure being exerted on the retaining means.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 4, line 6 and ending on line 8 with the amended paragraph as set forth below:

--The invention further relates to a method for placing a label in a mold for in-mold labeling wherein each label to be placed is subsequently arranged in the mold against at least one wall portion and is secured against it and preferably through reduced pressure, adhesion or static charge, ~~characterized by the features according to claim 17.--~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 5, line 10 and ending on line 11 with the amended paragraph as set forth below:

--In a further advantageous embodiment, a method according to the invention wherein using the removal device at least one insert is placed in at least on the closing part of the mold preferably approximately simultaneously with the engagement of the product is ~~characterized by the features according to claim 23.--~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 6, line 3 and ending on line 5 with the amended paragraph as set forth below:

--The invention further relates to an apparatus for manufacturing labels for placement in a mold in particular an injection mold having a supply means for a film web and a carrier means on which the film web can at least partially be supported and a cutting means for cutting loose, at least blanking out a label forming part of the film web. A retaining means can be provided which includes a pickup means for holding a label forming part of the film

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web to be referred to as a label. The retaining means can pick up the label loosely from the film web without deformation. The retaining means is arranged for locking the label-forming part against the carrier, ~~characterized by the features according to claim 27.--~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 6, line 19 and ending on line 20 with the amended paragraph as set forth below:

--In further elaboration, an apparatus according to the present invention wherein the blanking opening is formed by a first blanking plate, while the blanking punch is provided with a second complementary blanking punch. The blanking plates may be exchangeable with the other first and/or second blanking plates ~~is characterized by the features according to claim 30.--~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 7, line 5 and ending on line 6 with the amended paragraph as set forth below:

--In further elaboration, an apparatus according to the present invention can include a retaining means arranged for directly placing the label in a mold ~~is characterized by the features according to claim 36.--~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 7, line 13 and ending on line 14 with the amended paragraph as set forth below:

--In a further advantageous embodiment, an apparatus according to the invention wherein an insertion device is provided for taking over the label from the retaining means such that it can be transferred with the insertion device into an opened mold ~~is further characterized by the features according to claim 37.--~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 7, line 26 and ending on line 27 with the amended paragraph as set forth below:

--The invention further relates to an injection mold wherein the engaging part is arranged for engagement of or behind an undercut in the product ~~characterized by the features according to claim 41.--~~

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Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 8, line 27 and ending on line 28 with the amended paragraph as set forth below:

--The invention further relates to a product manufactured by injection molding, wherein the in-mold label has a thickness of less than 30 micrometers, in particular less than 20 micrometers, more particularly less than 15 micrometers, and preferably less than 10 micrometers ~~characterized by the features according to claim 45.~~--